

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 3-11 are allowable.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 3-20 were pending in this application. Claims 12-18 and 20 have been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 3-11 and 19 are currently pending in this application. Claim 3 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 3.

Claim Amendment

Claim 19 has been amended to clarify the invention. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in independent claim 3 and originally filed claim 19. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2. As discussed previously, claim 20 has been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot with respect to claim 20. To the extent that the rejection applies to amended claim 19, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that a microcircuit is connected to *at least one wiring pad in the first set of conducting elements*. Therefore, claim 19 is now definite. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in independent claim 3 and originally filed claim 19. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 12, 14, 16-17, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,071,758 (“Steffen”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,460,825 (“Haghir-Tehrani”). Claims 12, 14, 16-17, and 20 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Steffen in view of Haghir-Tehrani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,065 (“Nishikawa”). Claims 13 and 15 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Steffen in view of Haghir-Tehrani and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,641,049 (“Luu”). Claim 14 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

As discussed previously, claim 19 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2. Accordingly, claim 19, which depends from allowable independent

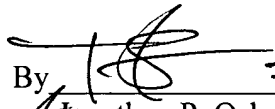
claim 3, is now allowable. In view of the above, Applicant asserts that all the pending claims (*i.e.*, 3-11 and 19) are allowable and respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669/059001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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